

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate that the priority document has been received and acknowledged, in the next office paper. Also, Applicants request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the IDS filed on December 30, 2003.

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the present application. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-4 are allowed and that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kubler et al. (US Patent No.: 6,389,010).

With respect to independent claim 5, Applicants amend this claim, as indicated herein, and submit that Kubler does teach or suggest at least, “wherein the step iv) is repeated based on whether a change occurs in a number of slaves connected to a piconet of the master,” as recited in amended claim 5. *See page 9, lines 15-18.* That is, nowhere does Kubler teach or suggest a correlation between repeating the step iv) and a change in the number of slaves connected to a piconet. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over Kubler.

Claim 6 is amended, as indicated herein, to place it in independent form so that it is not affected by the amendments to independent claim 5.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/972,957

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

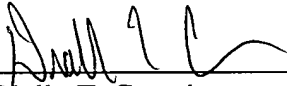
Respectfully submitted,

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